



Hitohira

3

IDUMI KIRIHARA



Hitohira 3

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For This Day
Chapter 16















What are we gonna do if Nono loses her voice on stage today?

We have to figure out a backup plan to cover our butts.

That's right.



I think it's best for you to sit this one out.

And after that??

If Nono's on stage and that happens, we gotta make it look like it's part of the play and get her off stage ASAP.

Hmm?

Nono's become a real wild card.

We never know when she'll lose her voice.





Let's do this!

Really?



OK, then.

Besides, we've known about Mono's condition all along...

We're all in this together.



I'm with Mugi on this one.



Well, you're the ones who came up with the idea.

What-P?!
Why us?!



Right. What kind of sign do you want Mono to give you?

Yeah. If you two think improvisation is the answer...

...then fine. I guess you guys are in charge of that department.

HA!

ははははは
HA HA HA























STRAIGHT
THROUGH

How
dare
you?!
Give it
back!

That's
my
diary!

INOOOO!
アホアホアホ...





*Are you
ready to
believe
in us
now?*

*We're
fairies
and
friends.*

*We spread
happiness
and we're
adorably
cute.
totoi*



*The music
starts
after
Hono's
lines.*

*If you're
not
ghosts,
then
maybe
I am.*

*A ghost
in life,
so why
live?*



Hm?



*Why
should
I?*

*You
can't
help me*

*You're
wasting
your time*



THE SIGN?!



SLAP

Chapter 16 ⇨ End



Everybody
understand?

OK then,
if Nono loses
her voice in
the middle
of the play...

...she's
gonna
give us
a clear
sign.



NONO...?!



ARE WE ALL
ON THE SAME
PAGE?



Only Me, Now Chapter 17





Shojo

DID YOU
REALLY...?



SLAP



THROB

What...?

QUB





YOU...

You lost
your
voice?



THAT
IDIOT!

Mugi!





I've seen
Hono and
the others
tell her
that over
and over.

Mugi knows
she's gotta
shake it off
and perform
like it's part
of the act.



Oh, no!
I'm definitely
feeling some
bad vibes from
the audience.



I know
her...

She won't
talk to you
until you
change your
attitude!

She's just
upset at your
negativity and
pessimism!



Fairies
don't
lose their
voices.





A LINE.

I GOTTA SAY
SOMETHING..

CAN'T
THINK.

MY MIND
IS BLANK.

Nothing.

And what if
you forget
one of
your lines?





And I know
I'm gonna
forget for
sure!

You've
taught me,
but I still
don't know
what I'd
do...

Anything
can happen
up there...



If this would
have happened
an hour from
now, I'd be
off stage.

And if this would
have happened
an hour ago,
I wouldn't have
gotten on stage
in the first place.



I knew
I'd lose
my voice
eventually.

But...

...why?
Does it
have to be
right now
on stage?

Shut up,
pipsqueak!

Sis, you're always
so rough and
straightforward.

How if you
could only
apply that
positivity to
your acting,
you wouldn't
forget your
lines.

Mysterious
Mug...
How can
you be so
positively
unconfident?

He's fussy,
but he
understands
the feelings
of others.

KAE
NISHIDA
...

She does me
the favor
of scolding
me...
often.

RISAKI
NISHIDA
...

...
MUGU
ASA.

I can't
help but
worry
about
that.

...that if I can't
remember one
of my lines,
I'll also blank
out on making
up my own?

But...
...have
you con-
sidered...

And
finally...

Your
unintelligible
babble is better
for distracting
the audience,
egghead!

Risaki,
you teach her
to improvise.
You're good at
making up semi-
interesting tak
off the top of
your head.

He
supports me,
even when
I can't
realize it.

TAKASHI
KATSURAGI
...





SHE'S
STRUGGLED,
BUT SHE
HASN'T
GIVEN UP.

SHE REMINDS
ME OF WHAT
I WAS,
BEFORE
THEATER
CHANGED ME.

I FELT LIKE
I HAD TO
BE TOUGH
ON HER.



SHE'S
COME A
LONG WAY.

TO HERE...
TO THIS
STAGE...
TO THIS VERY
MOMENT.





I DON'T CARE
IF I LOSE
MY VOICE...



I got it.
We can
feed you
lines that'll
make you
remember
your line.



I MET YOU
AT THIS
SCHOOL-
AND HERE...

YOU GAVE
ME THEATER-
AND IT GAVE
ME HOPE-

IF YOU
HATE ME...
IF WE
ABOUT...

Even
Now



I WANTED
TO KEEP
ACTING!

...at least...

...let us
help you?

Can't
you...

...you have
nothing...

...to lose.



THAT
VOICE...
IT'S
HORRIBLE
...

YOU'VE
GIVEN
YOURSELF.



I CAN'T
LET HER
DOWN!
NOT NOW!

BLEND



I NEED TO
WARN YOU...

Nono...

She's
trying so
hard...
for me.



I WON'T!



I
believe
in you!





*You're
absolutely
right about
my attitude!*



*I believe
you can
help me to
be happy,
so change
me!*



SHE
FOUND IT!

TREMBLE



Well?!

*Let me
see you
do it!*



*SHE WAS A NORMAL GIRL WHO HATED BEING
THE CENTER OF ATTENTION.*



*BUT WITH LOTS OF EFFORT AND SUPPORT
ON THE PART OF HER FRIENDS...*



HERE SHE IS, RIGHT NOW...

Won't Forget This Day Chapter 18





MAYBE IT
WAS JUST THAT
SHE SUDDENLY
SPOKE LOUDLY...
PEOPLE MAY
EVEN SAY
THAT IT WAS
NOTHING.



IT WAS A
SIGHT...
NO, A
SOUND...
TO BEHOLD.



...
TRANSFORMED
THE MOOD OF
THE ENTIRE
HALL.



BUT,
HER
VOICE
HAD



AND
DREW
ALL
EYES...

...TO FOCUS
ON THE GIRL
WHOSE VOICE
IT WAS.



SORRY...

SHE SEIZED
THE MOMENT.



RE-APPEARING

EVEN
SUCCESS
AND
FAILURE
...



...SLIPPED TO
THE BACK OF
HER MIND.

LOOK



SHE LET
GO OF HER
THOUGHTS...
HER DOUBTS.

...love
you!
I always
have!



...FLOWED
NATURALLY...

I
couldn't
be
happier.

Nothing.

What's
wrong?



These
are...

...tears
of joy,
that's
all.

...AS DID
HER WORDS.



...THEY WOULD BE SHOCKED.

I haven't thanked you yet!

I'm sorry!

I'm so glad to be alive!





*I know I'll face
tough times
because they
are a part
of life.*

*But with
hope...
I'll be all
right.*

*I've
found
joy, and
with it,
hope.*

She...

...WAS...

*...
GLOWING.*

*Maybe
you were all
just in my
imagination.*

*But,
thank
you!*

SHINE



That
couldn't
have
turned out
better.

Whew!

Mission
accomplished



Hmph!

At least
we'll
never be
out of a
job.

Our
work's
never
done,
is it?



A piece
of cake.

Hey, look
over there!
You see
that unhappy
guy?



CLAP

CLAP

CLAP

CLAP



Hey,
you over
there...!

Let's
do it.

...shall
we move
on to
the next
person
then?

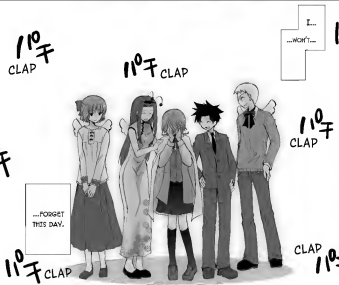
So...











CHATTER

The last scene was very touching.

CHATTER

If you liked
our play,
please vote
for us and
put a ball in
this box.

Fans are
over
here.

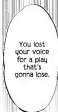
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7/14/00











BUT...
THE MOST IMPORTANT BATTLE HAS
JUST BEGUN!







Ready,
go!

BANG



Everybody
count
together...



One!

TOSS



Showdown Chapter 19



...AND WITH
THEM OUR
HOPES AND
DREAMS.

THE BALLS
WERE THROWN
SKYWARD...



THE
COUNTING
CONTINUED,
RHYTHMICALLY.



Forty-one!

THE
NUMBERS
CLIMBED,
UNTIL...

Forty-nine...







We have
our winner!
The Official
Theater
Group!

They will
remain as
our school's
sole theater
club!



Our
MONTHS OF
HARD WORK
ENDED THERE.

IT WAS
A HUGE
BLOW TO
ALL OF
US.















I WAS
SHOCKED.

NOT ONLY WAS
SHE ACTUALLY
DOING IT,
BUT SHE WAS
DOING IT FAST.



I LAUGHED
AT THE
TIME.

Ha
ha.

All
right.
I will.



Um...

Yes.

Well, I'm
still in the
Theater
Group,
so are
you asking
me to
quit?

You'd
have
to.



I never
knew you
were the
one who
planted
the idea
in her
head.

NOSTALGIC

Let's go.

When I
look back
at it,
she really
caused
a lot of
trouble...

REISAKI
JOINED TWO
DAY'S LATER.

I want
to join
your club.

It's not some
important
thing I have
to confess to
all of you!

Wait a
minute.
You played
your own
part in the
whole thing.

You came to
us suddenly,
even though
I don't know
why you
came at all.



How many
times do I
have to
tell you?!
It's her life
and her
body!

You're
being
stupid!

I SAW MIKIO
REALLY
DEPRESSED
AND ASKED
HER WHY.

And
...

I just had
a tiny
argument.

BANG



That's the
best idea
you've
ever had!

I don't
even want
to try to
explain this
to you
anymore!

You should
just quit
and join
her!

Neither
of us was
going to
back down.

BANG



I wasn't
interested
in this at
all at first.

If you
say
so...

Me
neither.

But,
I learned
that acting
can be
pretty fun.



No
comments
from the
peanut
gallery!

That's
my sis!

Don't
"whoa" me!

What?
I've



I don't
regret
any of it,
though.





GOTTEN
ANGRY
AT EACH
OTHER...

WE'VE
LAUGHED
...

CARED
...



AND I
WAS REALLY
HURT.



NONO SAID
SOME PRETTY
ROUGH
THINGS TO
ME.



I
GUESS...

...IT WAS
TOUGH
LOVE.

BUT...



I REALIZE
NOW.
THAT'S
HOW SHE
SHOWS THAT
SHE CARES.

I ONLY
CAUSED THEM
TROUBLE.

I just
feel
frus-
trated.

AFTER
ALL...
I...

Everybody
also tried
their
best...

I hope lots
of people
will come

Poster ?

30
2
4

Get
water
Ochako
Shoji

If I had
tried
harder,
I could
have
done it!

THEY'RE
RUNNING
AWAY!

If I had
practiced
more
seriously
from the
beginning...

I'm
sorry!

IT'S
ALL MY
FAULT!





Theater Group



...happy
that I
am here
with you.











Theater Group



Chitose's Challenge Chapter 20



THAT'S WHAT
KAI THINKS,
AND MAYBE
HE'S RIGHT.

WE ONLY GOT
TOGETHER
EVERY WEEK
BECAUSE OF
THE CLUB
ACTIVITIES.

AS FOR
KAI AND
ME...

...WE WENT
BACK TO OUR
NORMAL HIGH
SCHOOL LIVES.



THE SENIORS
LOOK BUSY,
AND WORRIED
ABOUT THEIR
FUTURES.



EVERYBODY
DOES
NOTHING
BUT STUDY
HARD.



SINCE THEN,
THERE'S
BEEN A BIG,
EMPTY HOLE
IN MY LIFE.

THE
FESTIVAL'S
OVER AND
OUR CLUB IS
NO MORE.









That's right.



It will be.



It's just that they're gonna graduate soon. This'll be our last chance to hang out with them.



CREAK

They'll all come, only if you invite them.

Me?! Why me?!

So I'll leave it up to you, Mugi.

Please, Mugi-Wugi!



UNDERSTAND?











Yeah,
I'm sure
she can
come.

OK!
Let's
do this
Christmas
party
right!

YAAAY!



Snow!

I was
hoping
for this!

A white
Christmas.

CHRISTMAS
DAY...



TIME...
...
PASSED



Oh, yes,
delightfully
wonderful...



HAPPY!

So
romantic!
♡

HAPPY!



Why the heck
are we having
the Christmas
party in the
Theater Group
room?!

BAM



It's JUST
NON-ALCOHOLIC
CIDER!

GLUG GLUG
GLUG
トホトホ...



You know
we're at
school,
right?



FRANTIC
FRANTIC

But
why?!

Let me
take some
pictures!



おめでとう
クリスマス
Merry
Christmas!

Merry
Christmas!

トホトホ...
CLINK



These
moments
need to be
captured!

What
did you
mean?





TA-DAH!

I submitted
an absence
excuse!

Risaki!

Why
aren't
you in
class?!

Why not?!
And
what's
with
all the
gloom?

Don't try
to borrow
money from
us in the
future.

It's your
dead-end
life after
all.

What
is
this?!

I have a bad
stomachache,
so I can't
come today.
Please excuse
me, though!

It can't
be helped...
Be
strong,
Takashi...

Don't
cry for
me!

Wait
...!

I just
hoped we
could all
graduate
together.

TEARS





You look good in your natural state.

Hey!

You took a surprise photo of me again!

GRIN
fell



Mm...

Mm?



RUCKUS

RUCKUS

Take it!

Let's take it!

ok, let me take pictures of you then!

Come on!

If you can!

Kayo, let's take a picture together.



Ready?

Cheese!

I guess that's right.

Now that I think about it, you're always behind the camera, Kayo.

So, I don't have any pictures of you!





↑ 何となく...
Like old times...



STOMP



Best Friends Chapter 21



...YOU'LL HAVE
LESS REGRETS
LATER IF YOU
CHOOSE TO
DO IT.

IN LIFE,
WHEN YOU
HAVE TWO
CHOICES...

...AND THOSE
CHOICES
ARE TO DO
SOMETHING
OR NOT DO
SOMETHING...

I MAY BE
REJECTED,
BUT I HAVE
TO TRY
FOR HIM...
THAT'S JUST
WHO I AM.

CHOOSE
PI

LEAVE
ME...

STARTLED

IT'S NOT
LIKE ME
TO HAVE
REGRETS!

RAY
STEP

MEN







I like
Nono...

I'm
sorry...



What am
I gonna
do...?!

You
do?

I
know!

わああ
WAAH!



I DIDN'T
REALLY THINK
I COULD
COMPETE
WITH HER
ANYWAY...



"PLEASE GO
OUT WITH
ME!"

I COULDN'T
BRING
MYSELF TO
SAY IT.

Chitose



TEARS

...TO KNOW
I CAN'T,
REALLY
HURTS.

BUT...



Outside...

...IT'S
SHOWING
HARD.



You're a
pretty girl.

You can
find a
better
guy.



Let's
have a
snowball
fight.

SNIFFLE



You look pretty torn up.

Um...

That class was absolute torture!

They finally let me go.

PHEW!



...

Sure...



Oh!

Well... They're both in the restroom.

GLANCE

チラッ

GLANCE

チラッ

Why do you all look so jittery?

Hey, where's Takashi and Chitose?

SLIDE

ヒッ

Hey...

...you guys!

うわわっ
oops!



Let's have a snowball fight!







Now I know
why she
wanted to
have this
snowball
fight.



It's every
man for
himself,
big boy!

Heh.

Why are
you guys
attacking
me?!

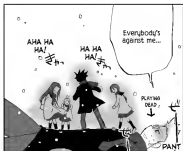


But if it
makes
her feel
better...

She's a
nice girl
after all.

BLAM!







She'd be good for you.

She's a lovely one...

RISE



You stood right there!



Dear 18

You like looking at girls from that angle?

Hey!

THUD



Momo ...



...belongs
to another
girl.

...my
heart

But...



Well...

...maybe
you're
right...



When
did this
happen?

Really?



I see...

This
year.

I don't
want
anybody
else.



Perfect!



Kayo.

You think this is big enough?



TO PUT THIS ONE ON TOP...

2000
の
+2000

HEAVE HO!

HEAVE HO!



Done!



CRUNCH

Let's put a scarf on him.

And stones for his face.



Great!







JOIT











...but it's
true.

I'm
sorry...



But I
know
you'll be
OK.



So we can't
be Juniors
together.



We Were Together Chapter 22



And what
is your
New Year's
resolution?

To stay
alive,
I guess.



あははは
ははは
ははは



Did you guys
have an
argument or
something?

You always
go to the
shrine with
Kayo.

CHOP
CHOP



So
cool
as
usual

Um...

Hey,
Mugi!

Aren't
you going
to the
shrine this
year?

CHOP







CHATTER

R
W

Ahi!

Kari!

Do I
look
weird?

Maybe
I do...

Oh,
I didn't
braid my
hair today.

Mug?
I almost
didn't
recognize
you!

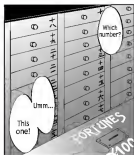






I have to give
Mugi some
distance until
I go...





















We're
getting
older.
He has!

Chitose
and the Theater
Group are
having trouble
finding new
members.

She's upset
that we're
not gonna
join.



It's been
three
months
since it all
ended..

Time's
flying by
faster
and
faster.



He's in an
art school
and he's
gonna join
the Art
Club?!
How
stupid!

When I
men-
tioned
that you
were
joining
the Art
Club...

She
told
me.

LET'S DO
THEATER!

She came
up to me
just to
say that.
too.





DISGUSTED!

You're
too
obsessed
with art!

You
artsy-
fartsy
freak!

She
said
that!

I can
totally
picture
what she
looked
like.



What
are you
gonna
do?

Not
gonna
join any
clubs?

Oh
well



I'm not
saying I
don't like
theater
though.



After all,
I haven't
changed
much since
I started
school.



There's
nothing
I really
want to
do...

Unless
something
interesting
comes up.

I don't
think
so...





Why not?



I didn't pray for anything.

Because I couldn't.



Did you hear...

...about Kayo going abroad?



Oh, I see.

Yeah... She told me.



Kayo and I have been together since the beginning of junior high.

TAP



PLOP

カ

The only thing I want is something I shouldn't pray for.

So I didn't.





...closer
and closer
to her
dream.

Kayo's
moving
forward...

TUMP



She told me
about her
plans at the
Christmas
party.

Mugi
...



She said she
wanted me
to support
her decision.

What do
you think
I said
to her
at that
time?



While I'm
paralyzed
by
shyness.

She'll
leave me
behind.

TUMP

She won't
ever need
my help.

TUMP



Nothing.
I didn't say
anything.



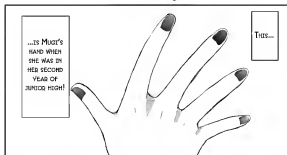
Supporting
her means
letting her
not help me
anymore.

I didn't
want her
to leave
me.

That was
all I could
think of.



Hitohira Jr.



Putting
pent
on your
nails!

But it is
pretty
weird!

Also,
it feels
like I'm
an adult.

I thought
something
weird was
going on.

Every girl
puts through
this.
何かに
目覚めさせたか
と勘違い

Misa
was just
making
fun of
my nails.

It's her
fault!

Lipstick
and
makeup,
too!

メイク
用品も
必要

Hey!

Let's
go buy
some nail
polish
today!

Yeah...

Too
many to
choose
from...

Wow!

BROWSING

